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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

licant:

Mark M. Lavoie

pplication No.:

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Sharon G. Carlisle

Typed or printed name of person signing certificate

AMENDMENT A

Assistant Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 2327 Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

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This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed from the Patent and Trademark Office on October 3, 2002 in the above-identified application. . Reconsideration and further examination are requested.

An extension of time to respond to the Office Action is respectfully requested. A Petition for Extension of Time and the appropriate fee are being filed concurrently with this Amendment.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 16, 17, 22, 23, 25-27, 31, and 32. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i - iii).